

# ***Advancing Women's Rights Globally***



## **Project Partners:**

**Georgetown University Law Center's International Women's Human Rights Clinic  
Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa - Ghana  
Law and Advocacy for Women - Uganda  
Nigeria Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative  
Tanzania Women's Legal Aid Centre**

**Consolidated First, Second, Third and Fourth Quarterly Reports  
November 1, 2003 – October 31, 2004  
Submitted By: Susan Deller Ross  
Principal Investigator  
Date: August 19, 2005**

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- Conducted two public education sessions concerning the need for a new law to end discrimination in inheritance and prohibit the abuse of widows, one in Benue (August 17, 2004) and one in Calbar (September 28, 2004); ..... 3
- Engaged the media in a campaign to raise awareness of the plight of widows; ..... 3
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  - Organized a parliamentary round table on domestic violence (October 10, 2004); 4
  - Hosted two Clinic summer interns who performed legal work and helped plan and conduct projects, including: ..... 4
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    - ∴ Researching potential funders for domestic violence activities under the campaign, ..... 4
    - ∴ Interviewing local victims of domestic violence, ..... 4
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    - ∴ Working with other Civil Society Organizations (Legal and Human Rights Centre, Women Fighting Aids in Tanzania Trust Fund (WUFATA), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), Association of Women in the Media (TAMWA) and Association of Women Lawyers (TAWLA) on the domestic violence issue;..... 4
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  - Completed a human rights fact finding trip, with the Clinic, in support of two Clinic/LAW-Uganda proposed bills and supporting human rights reports concerning discriminatory intestate succession laws and ending the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (March, 2004); ..... 5
  - Initiated three litigation projects, in collaboration with the Clinic, challenging laws that discriminate against women in (i) inheritance; (ii) criminal adultery prosecutions; and (iii) polygamous marriages (fall 2004); ..... 5
  - Completed two on-going projects in collaboration with the Clinic by drafting bills to end sex discrimination in (i) Employment and (ii) Muslim Marriage Law (November/December 2003); ..... 5
  - Conducted six public education sessions on the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB): (i) Wakiso District (December 11, 2003), (ii) Kampala (September 24, 2004), (iii) Kabale District (October 19, 2004), (iv) Soroto District (October 28, 2004), (v) Apac District (October 29, 2004), and (vi) Moroto District (October 31, 2004); .. 5
  - Conducted four parliamentary round tables on the DRB in Kampala: (i) November 10, 2003, (ii) February 27, 2004, (iii) June 28, 2004, and (iv) August 23, 2004;..... 5
  - Published Booklet Titled "A Summary and Commentary of the Domestic Relations Bill";..... 5
  - Conducted one legislative consultation on the new Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa in Kampala (October 25, 2004); ..... 5
  - Hosted two Clinic summer interns who performed legal work and helped plan and conduct projects, including: ..... 6
    - ∴ Drafting newspaper articles on female genital mutilation and discrimination against pregnant police officers, ..... 6
    - ∴ Drafting report on the trafficking situation in Uganda, ..... 6
    - ∴ Working with lawyers and Clinic students on the intestate succession, polygamy and adultery lawsuits,..... 6
    - ∴ Assisting in drafting a funding proposal for ABA-Africa for an initiative on trafficking in Uganda, and ..... 6
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## INTRODUCTION

### **First, Second, Third and Fourth Quarterly Reports November 1, 2003 – October 31, 2004**

For the third year of the USAID grant, “*Advancing Women’s Rights Globally*,” this is the consolidated first, second, third and fourth quarterly reports (November 1, 2003 – October 31, 2004). This report includes the activities of the Georgetown University Law Center’s (“GULC”) International Women’s Human Rights Clinic (hereafter, “the Clinic”) and its four partners: LAWA-Ghana, WRAPA, WLAC, and LAW-Uganda<sup>1</sup> under Grant Agreement #GEW-G-00-02-00001-00. Under this grant, the partners work on various projects to advance women’s rights, including legislation, litigation, strengthening civil society, and public education. For the background of this work, see the First and Second Quarterly Report for the First Year.<sup>2</sup>

This report also includes work performed under a related grant from an Anonymous Donor, which was designed to complement the USAID grant goals as set forth in the USAID grant proposal. Because the activities under both grants support the objectives of the USAID grant, they will both be reported on herein. Headings throughout the report specifically denote which donor paid for which event, e.g. **USAID- Funded Work**, or **Anonymous Donor- Funded Work**.

Both donors’ grants contain funds for attorneys’ time. The Principal Investigator requires that all NGO partners submit detailed time sheets, from each attorney for whose time payment is sought, allocated to a specific donor. This report describes attorney time reflected in those time sheets, whether spent on litigation, research, work with Clinic faculty and staff, participation in broad civil society coalitions or conferences, or in holding the specific USAID/Anonymous Donor-funded legislative consultations, public education sessions, and parliamentary roundtables.

In many cases, other donors also fund similar work by the same NGO partner. This report, though, reflects only the events funded by, or attorney work described in the time sheets relating to the USAID or Anonymous Donor grants, unless otherwise noted.

All of the project work is consistent with USAID’s SSO3 objectives, which will be discussed separately below in Parts II through V. In addition, Part VI discusses the Clinic’s work to advance women’s human rights, administer the program and implement the Leland Initiative. Part VII discusses how the work supports USAID’s regional and country mission objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> The acronyms stand for: Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa – Ghana (“LAWA-Ghana”); Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (“WRAPA”) in Nigeria; Women’s Legal Aid Centre (“WLAC”) in Tanzania; and Law and Advocacy for Women – Uganda (“LAW-Uganda”).

<sup>2</sup> First and Second Quarterly Report (November 1, 2001 through April 31, 2002), dated August 20, 2002, pages 8-9.

## **I. Third-Year Goals for Each NGO and the Clinic and Summary of Accomplishments**

### **A. Ghana**

#### **1. Goals: Legislation Initiatives on Domestic Violence, Trafficking, and Integration of Women into Constitutional Traditional Government; Education on Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Abuse of Domestic Assistants.**

To advance these goals, LAWA-Ghana agreed to do the following:

##### **a. USAID - Funded Work**

- Conduct three legislative consultations with other NGOs;
- Conduct two parliamentary roundtables; and
- Conduct three public education sessions

##### **b. Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

- Conduct three public education sessions.

#### **2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

LAWA-Ghana's accomplishments are summarized here in bullet form, for the reader's convenience. Detailed explanations of each are provided in the sections of the report covering Ghana. This format will be used for each NGO partner. In sum, LAWA-Ghana did the following:

- **Completed four public education sessions on the Domestic Violence Bill: one in the Asafo Region (March 16, 2004); one in the Kpando Region (April 19-20, 2004); one in the Greater Accra Region (June 15, 2004); and one in Ho (October 12, 2004);**
- **Convened a public education session for 15 members of the media in support of the 16 days of activism on gender-based violence (December 12, 2003);**
- **Held a parliamentary round table on the Domestic Violence Bill in Accra (June 24, 2004);**
- **Continued collaboration with the National Coalition on Domestic Violence Legislation in Ghana;**
- **Completed one public education session on Trafficking of Domestic Assistants and Househelp Regulations, in Accra (September 1, 2004);**
- **Completed two legislative consultations in Accra: one on Domestic Assistants and Househelp Regulations (August 31, 2004); and one on Trafficking in Persons (September 29, 2004);**
- **Held a parliamentary round table on the Human Trafficking Bill, in Accra (October 29, 2004);**
- **Submitted a position paper to the Attorney General's office recommending an end to the exclusion of women from constitutional traditional government (December 2003); and**
- **Held a retreat in Aburi for members to plan goals for the coming year (November 29, 2003).**

## **B. Nigeria**

- 1. Goals: Legislative Initiatives on Domestic Violence, Women's Political Participation and Codification of Islamic Personal Law; Education Initiatives on Domestic Violence, Maternal Mortality, and Equal Inheritance Rights for Women; and a Baseline Survey on the Need for Codification of Islamic Law.**

In pursuing its goals, Nigeria WRAPA agreed to do the following:

- a. USAID - Funded Work**

- Conduct one legislative consultation with other NGOs;
- Conduct one parliamentary roundtable;
- Conduct two public education sessions; and
- Conduct one public education baseline study.

- b. Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

- Conduct one legislative consultation with other NGOs;
- Conduct two parliamentary roundtables; and
- Conduct one public education session.

- 2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

Nigeria WRAPA engaged in the following this reporting period:

- **Held a public education session in Abuja on Violence Against Women (December 16, 2003);**
- **Held a legislative consultation on Violence Against Women legislation in Abuja (March 8, 2004);**
- **Continued collaboration with LACVAW on domestic violence issues;**
- **Conducted a public education session on the issue of maternal mortality in Delta State (August 2, 2004);**
- **Conducted two public education sessions concerning the need for a new law to end discrimination in inheritance and prohibit the abuse of widows, one in Benue (August 17, 2004) and one in Calbar (September 28, 2004);**
- **Engaged the media in a campaign to raise awareness of the plight of widows;**
- **Held a public education session on women's political participation in Kaduna state (October 28, 2004); and**
- **Conducted a baseline survey to gauge public opinion on the codification of Islamic laws, and finished drafting a codified law.**

## **C. Tanzania**

- 1. Goals: Legislation Initiatives on Domestic Violence and Discriminatory Inheritance Laws; Use of Media to Educate the Public on Relevant Issues; Strategic Litigation on Inheritance; and Education Initiatives on Domestic Violence and Inheritance.**

Tanzania WLAC agreed to conduct the following activities to further its goals:

**a. USAID - Funded Work**

- Conduct two legislative consultations with other NGOs;
- Conduct two parliamentary roundtables;
- Conduct two public education sessions; and
- Host two summer interns from the Clinic.

**b. Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

- Conduct two public education sessions.

**2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

Tanzania WLAC engaged in the following this reporting period:

- **Organized two public education sessions on domestic violence: one in Dodoma (December 2-3, 2003), and one in Dar es Salaam (October 5-6, 2004);**
- **Conducted a legislative consultation in Iringa on domestic violence (December 4-5, 2003);**
- **Organized a parliamentary round table on domestic violence (October 10, 2004);**
- **Hosted two Clinic summer interns who performed legal work and helped plan and conduct projects, including:**
  - ∴ **Designing a campaign against domestic violence,**
  - ∴ **Researching potential funders for domestic violence activities under the campaign,**
  - ∴ **Interviewing local victims of domestic violence,**
  - ∴ **Assisting in workshop on domestic violence issues sponsored by the State University of New York's Technical Assistance for the Strengthening of Tanzania's Union National Assembly (Parliament) program, and**
  - ∴ **Working with other Civil Society Organizations (Legal and Human Rights Centre, Women Fighting Aids in Tanzania Trust Fund (WUFATA), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), Association of Women in the Media (TAMWA) and Association of Women Lawyers (TAWLA) on the domestic violence issue ;**
- **Prepared booklet on domestic violence for publication;**
- **Organized a parliamentary round tables on inheritance (November 21, 2003);**
- **Conducted two public education sessions on inheritance issues in Dar es Salaam, (May 20-21, 2004 and May 27-28, 2004);**
- **Held a legislative consultation on inheritance in Dar es Salaam (May 6-7, 2004);**
- **Initiated a strategic litigation project, in collaboration with the Clinic, on intestate succession (Fall 2004);**
- **Convened a workshop for the media on advocacy techniques and relevant issues related to the campaign for equal inheritance laws (April 14, 2004); and**
- **Printed Inheritance Advocacy Booklet in Swahili.**

## **D. Uganda**

- 1. Goals: Legislation Initiatives on Trafficking, the Domestic Relations Bill ("DRB") covering Polygamy, Marital Rape, Brideprice and Divorce Issues; Educational Initiatives on the DRB and Ratifying the African Protocol on the Rights of Women; and Strategic Litigation in the Areas of Sex Discriminatory Adultery Laws, Gender Discrimination in Inheritance and Challenging Polygamy.**

LAW-Uganda agreed to pursue the following activities to achieve its goals:

- a. USAID - Funded Work**

- Conduct one legislative consultation;
- Conduct three public education sessions; and
- Host two summer interns from the Clinic.

- b. Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

- Conduct one public education session; and
- Conduct two parliamentary roundtables.

- 2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

LAW-Uganda engaged in the following activities this reporting period:

- **Won a precedent-setting Constitutional Court case giving women equal rights with men to divorce (March, 2004);**
- **Completed a human rights fact finding trip, with the Clinic, in support of two Clinic/LAW-Uganda proposed bills and supporting human rights reports concerning discriminatory intestate succession laws and ending the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (March, 2004);**
- **Initiated three litigation projects, in collaboration with the Clinic, challenging laws that discriminate against women in (i) inheritance; (ii) criminal adultery prosecutions; and (iii) polygamous marriages (fall 2004);**
- **Completed two on-going projects in collaboration with the Clinic by drafting bills to end sex discrimination in (i) Employment and (ii) Muslim Marriage Law (November/December 2003);**
- **Conducted six public education sessions on the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB): (i) Wakiso District (December 11, 2003), (ii) Kampala (September 24, 2004), (iii) Kabale District (October 19, 2004), (iv) Soroto District (October 28, 2004), (v) Apac District (October 29, 2004), and (vi) Moroto District (October 31, 2004);**
- **Conducted four parliamentary round tables on the DRB in Kampala: (i) November 10, 2003, (ii) February 27, 2004, (iii) June 28, 2004, and (iv) August 23, 2004;**
- **Published Booklet Titled “A Summary and Commentary of the Domestic Relations Bill”;**
- **Conducted one legislative consultation on the new Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa in Kampala (October 25, 2004);**

- **Hosted two Clinic summer interns who performed legal work and helped plan and conduct projects, including:**
  - ∴ **Drafting newspaper articles on female genital mutilation and discrimination against pregnant police officers,**
  - ∴ **Drafting report on the trafficking situation in Uganda,**
  - ∴ **Working with lawyers and Clinic students on the intestate succession, polygamy and adultery lawsuits,**
  - ∴ **Assisting in drafting a funding proposal for ABA-Africa for an initiative on trafficking in Uganda, and**
  - ∴ **Working with other Civil Society Organizations; and**
- **Participated in Media Programs to Raise Awareness of Women’s Rights Issues.**

## **E. The Clinic**

### **1. Goals: In Collaboration with the NGOs, Complete Two On-Going Legislation Projects, Two New Legislation Projects/Fact-Finding Investigations/Human Rights Reports, Start Four New Litigation Projects; Administer Grant Activities, the Clinic Fact-Finding Missions, the Student Internships and the Leland Initiatives.**

Under the GULC grants, the Clinic is responsible for planning and administering several different programs. Therefore, the third-year grant goals include the following:

- **Finish two Ugandan legislation projects (fall semester 2003);**
- **Complete two new Ugandan legislation projects and human rights reports (spring semester 2004);**
- **Start three new Ugandan litigation projects and one new Tanzanian litigation project (fall semester 2004);**
- **Administer contracts for each NGO, including extension of USAID contracts;**
- **Administer a program for each NGO to submit quarterly reports, time sheets for legal personnel, and invoices for reimbursement of expenses;**
- **Administer spring fact-finding mission;**
- **Administer summer internship program; and**
- **Arrange for implementation of the Leland Initiative.**

### **2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

The Clinic engaged in the following activities this period:

- **Completed two on-going projects in collaboration with LAW-Uganda in the fall semester 2003 (November and December) by drafting bills to end sex discrimination in (i) Employment and (ii) Muslim Marriage Law;**
- **Completed two combined legislation/fact-finding/human rights projects with LAW-Uganda in the spring semester 2004, including a draft human rights report, legislative memorandum, and proposed legislation to end (i) discrimination against women in inheritance; and (ii) female genital mutilation;**
- **Initiated with LAW-Uganda three new strategic litigation projects to be completed in the fall semester 2004, by starting draft lawsuits to challenge: (i)**

**discriminatory inheritance laws; (ii) polygamy; and (iii) female-only criminal adultery laws;**

- **Initiated with WLAC-Tanzania a new strategic litigation project to be completed in the fall semester 2004, by starting a draft lawsuit to challenge discriminatory inheritance laws;**
- **Planned and conducted spring-break fact-finding investigation in the spring semester 2004, in collaboration with LAW-Uganda;**
- **Administered the 2004 summer internship program and supervised four interns (two in Uganda and two in Tanzania);**
- **Continued implementation of the Leland Initiative;**
- **Continued to provide legal and administrative guidance to the partner NGOs;**
- **Administered system for quarterly reports, time sheets and invoices; and**
- **Obtained approval for a one-year extension of the USAID grant.**

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **II. Supporting Improved Legislation that Protects and Advances Women's Rights**

In their efforts to achieve legislative reforms, the African NGOs:

- conducted seven parliamentary round tables (domestic violence – 1, trafficking – 1; inheritance – 1, and marital rights – 4);
- conducted seven legislative consultations (domestic violence – 3, trafficking – 2; inheritance – 1, and marital rights – 1);
- completed four new legislation projects, in collaboration with the Clinic (equal Muslim marriage and divorce rights, employment discrimination, discrimination in inheritance laws, and female genital mutilation);
- submitted a memo to an Attorney General's office recommending equal status for women as traditional leaders;
- performed a study on the codification of Islamic personal law; and
- conducted a research project on trafficking.

#### **A. Domestic Violence**

##### **1. Ghana's Work Toward Passage of the Domestic Violence Bill**

###### **USAID- Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana continues to work closely with the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Legislation in Ghana (the "Coalition"). This group, which represents over 100 individuals and civil society organizations, held several planning meetings related to its goal of getting the Domestic Violence Bill passed.

On June 24, 2004, LAWA-Ghana, in conjunction with the Coalition, held a parliamentary roundtable for the Gender and Children's Committee at the Parliament House in Accra. Discussions included the incidence of domestic violence in Ghana, the work of the Law Reform Commission and Ghana's obligation under international human rights instruments to enact such legislation.

Members of LAWA-Ghana and the Coalition met with the Minister of Women's and Children's Affairs on July 27, 2004. Despite explaining that they conducted education programs throughout the country, the Minister wishes to continue with education efforts before sending the bill to Parliament. It is possible that the bill will be tabled after elections in November 2004. LAWA-Ghana is considering test case litigation in this area if movement does not occur soon. However, the Coalition is not ready to take that step.

##### **2. Nigeria's Work on Violence Against Women Legislation**

###### **USAID – Funded Work**

WRAPA continued its active participation in the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW). This coalition of 50 NGOs has made great progress

toward passage of the proposed bill designed to prohibit and prevent all forms of violence against women.

On March 8, 2004, WRAPA hosted a Legislative Consultation on the Bill on Violence Against Women, in Abuja, with a segment specifically addressing harmful widowhood practices. Over 36 legislators and numerous other NGO and governmental representatives attended. Thirty-two members of Parliament and the Speaker of the House of Representatives agreed to co-sponsor the Bill on Violence Against Women. This event consisted of expert presentations, speeches, and a role play.

### **3. Tanzania's Work on Combating Domestic Violence**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

WLAC's held a legislative consultation for 25 participants to mark the "16 Days Against Violence" campaign, held on December 4-5, 2003, in Iringa. The consultation discussed existing laws that can be used to combat domestic violence, such as the Sexual Offences (Special Provision) Act of 1998 and new Land Laws. It also explained WLAC's campaign for the enactment of Domestic Violence Laws.

On October 10, 2004, a parliamentary round table was held on the inheritance issues for 13 people. Unfortunately, no parliamentarians were able to attend. Therefore, WLAC took the opportunity to discuss the proposed domestic violence bill and corresponding protection orders. The participants planned activities including zonal visits, task force meetings, ten radio sessions on domestic violence and the potential for a women's shelter.

#### **State University of New York (SUNY) – Funded Work**

WLAC took part in a two day exhibition organized by SUNY for civil society organizations to collaborate with Members of Parliament on the issue of domestic violence. WLAC worked with other NGOs to inform participants about the need to enact laws prohibiting domestic violence. Clinic interns assisted in organizing WLAC's participation in this event.

### **B. Trafficking in Persons**

#### **1. Ghana's Work on Internal and External Trafficking Legislation**

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

On the issue of trafficking, LAWA-Ghana is coordinating with the International Programme on Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) in Ghana to pass a Human Trafficking Bill. LAWA has also been working to involve other organizations that are interested in getting this legislation passed. The Human Trafficking Bill is a government proposal. LAWA-Ghana is advocating changes to this legislation based on a joint LAWA-Ghana/Clinic legislative project conducted in the fall semester 2001.

A legislative consultation was held on August 31, 2004, in Accra, on the issue of domestic assistants and househelp. Domestic assistants are often trafficked from Ghana's north

to the southern regions. Eighteen (18) people attended the consultation, which highlighted the abuse faced by domestic workers and discussed potential legislative changes to protect the workers. Participants included a representative from the Attorney-General's office who stated she supported the proposal for legislative changes. The proposed legislative changes were part of a prior LAWA-Ghana/Clinic project from spring semester 2003.<sup>3</sup>

On September 29, 2004, a legislative consultation was held on the issue of Trafficking in Persons for twenty-four (24) participants. LAWA-Ghana outlined the proposed Human Trafficking Bill and recommended a commission or task force be set up to address issues of trafficking (both internally and externally) in Ghana. The proposed legislative changes were part of two prior LAWA-Ghana/Clinic projects from the fall semester 2001 and summer 2002.

Twelve parliamentarians were consulted on the Trafficking in Persons bill at a parliamentary round table held on October 29, 2004 in Accra. LAWA-Ghana presented their recommendations to the Human Trafficking Bill to the parliamentarians. These recommendations took into consideration information gained during the September 29<sup>th</sup> legislative consultation.

### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

Funds for lawyer time were used to review the report on domestic household workers being trafficked internally and subjected to domestic servitude, in preparation for the legislative consultations note above. This report was a result of a fact-finding mission by the Clinic to Ghana in the spring of 2003.

## **2. Uganda Begins Reviewing Laws to Address the Problem of Trafficking**

### **USAID – Funded Work**

LAW-Uganda worked with a summer intern on a report outlining the need for anti-trafficking legislation in Uganda. The report highlighted how the current laws of Uganda are insufficient to properly address the issue of trafficking. LAW-Uganda has used this report as the basis for a funding proposal to ABA-Africa (American Bar Association) for a project on the issue of trafficking.

## **C. Discriminatory Inheritance Legislation**

### **1. Tanzania's Work toward Equal Rights in Inheritance**

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

To increase awareness of the issue of discriminatory inheritance laws (a Clinic/WLAC spring semester 2002 project), WLAC organized a roundtable discussion on November 21, 2003, in Dar es Salaam with Members of Parliament and other policy makers who are involved with discussions on discriminatory inheritance laws in the country. WLAC staff educated the parliamentarians on discriminatory inheritance laws and explained the need for reform.

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<sup>3</sup> For background information on this project, see the Second Year's First, Second, Third and Fourth Quarterly Report (November 1, 2002 through October 31, 2003), dated August 25, 2004 – page 11.

WLAC held a legislative consultation on inheritance issues for 20 participants in Dar es Salaam on May 6-7, 2004. The objectives of the consultation were to equip the media with advocacy tools on issues related to inheritance laws. A media strategy was also developed for dissemination of information on the inheritance campaign. Various members of the media formed a network (Mirathi) to use the media to advocate for passage of the inheritance bill.

## **2. Uganda's Work on Discriminatory Inheritance Laws**

### **USAID – Funded Work**

During the spring 2004 semester, LAW-Uganda and the Clinic successfully completed a project on intestate succession. It included a one-week (March 8 – 12, 2004) fact-finding mission on discriminatory laws and practices depriving widows of equal inheritance rights. The Clinic students drafted a human rights report and proposed legislation requiring that, upon the death of a spouse, the surviving spouse automatically obtains ownership of the marital home, custody and guardianship of the children and administration of the estate.

The human rights report found that the current law, among many things: (i) delegates control of the residence to the oldest male child; (ii) limits a widow's right to occupy her home by requiring that she abstain from sexual relations or risk losing her home; (iii) allows for property grabbing by the male relatives; (iv) fails to protect women from cultural practices such as widow inheritance; and (v) may deprive widows of parental rights by appointing other relatives as guardian of her children upon her husband's death.

The Ugandan Law Reform Commission (ULRC) has been reviewing the issue of intestate succession. Upon return from the fact-finding trip, the ULRC requested that the Clinic submit a summary of the proposed changes recommended by LAW-Uganda and the Clinic students, to include in their review of the subject. This was submitted to the ULRC on May 4, 2004, and was considered by the full Commission. This report was the focus of a considerable debate on the topic within the ULRC's consultations.

### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

LAW-Uganda attorneys did significant preparations for the fact finding mission on intestate succession and reviewed draft Clinic reports on the subject. The Anonymous Donor grant funded their time on this work.

## **D. Equal Marital Rights/Family Law**

### **1. Uganda's Domestic Relations Bill (DRB): Legislation to Ban Polygamy, Brideprice Payments, Marital Rape, and Discrimination at Divorce**

LAW-Uganda continued its work in support of the draft Domestic Relations Bill ("DRB") described in the First and Second Quarterly Report.<sup>4</sup> LAW-Uganda and the Clinic

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<sup>4</sup> First Year's First and Second Quarterly Report (November 1, 2001 through April 31, 2002), dated August 20, 2002, page 26.

have worked collaboratively on the DRB since the 2000 spring semester. Finally, in December 2003 parliament tabled the DRB, unfortunately with a watered down version of the originally drafted constraints on polygamy. Public debate on the DRB continues and LAW-Uganda remains vigilant in their work to strengthen women's rights within the DRB.

### **USAID –Funded Work**

A legislative consultation was held on October 25, 2004, to discuss "The Impact of the African Union [Women's Rights] Protocol on the DRB". LAW-Uganda worked with the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development and women's rights activists to ensure the DRB is in line with the Protocol and eliminates discrimination against women in the area of domestic relations. The 16 participants included Members of Parliament and their representatives, as well as seven members of the press.

### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

In November and December 2003, LAW-Uganda and the Clinic completed a proposed amendment to the DRB to give Muslim women more equal marriage and divorce rights through a standard Muslim marriage contract. In December 2003, the Clinic students submitted a final draft of their proposed contract and amendments to the DRB.

LAW-Uganda held a parliamentary round table on November 10, 2003, for 15 Members of Parliament and five members of the press. Issues presented included "Legal Practitioners' Perspectives on the DRB" and "Critical Issues of the DRB". All of the main provisions of the DRB were discussed at length with the parliamentarians.

A second parliamentary round table was held on February 27, 2004, to get feedback from parliamentarians on the booklet "A Summary and Commentary of the Domestic Relations Bill", which was published by LAW-Uganda. Fourteen parliamentarians and five members of the press attended the round table discussion.

A third parliamentary round table was held on June 28, 2004, for 10 parliamentarians, three television reporters and six radio reporters. The themes of the session were "The DRB and the Gender Perspective" and "A Legislator and Practitioner's Prospective". The discussions were widely reported by radio and television media.

LAW-Uganda held its fourth parliamentary round table on August 23, 2004, for 11 parliamentarians and three members of the press. The theme of this session was "Matrimonial Property Rights and the DRB". This session was held in response to a request made by the Parliamentarians at the June 28<sup>th</sup> session for additional discussion of the DRB. The session dealt primarily with issues of harmonizing cultural and religious issues with the provisions of the bill.

## **2. Nigeria's Draft Codification of Islamic Personal Law**

### **USAID – Funded Work**

WRAPA attorney A.M. Yauri has neared completion of a new draft bill on the codification of Muslim personal law, a project designed to increase women's equality rights in

marriage, divorce, and inheritance. This began as a project with the fall 2002 Clinic faculty and students, who wrote the first draft bill and supporting memorandum. There were numerous difficulties in completing the current draft, particularly in engaging relevant stakeholders (judges, Islamic jurists, scholars) on their opinion regarding the substance of such a law.

To support this project WRAPA commissioned a study of the application of Islamic family law in two of the Shari'a implementing states, Sokoto and Zamfara. The study primarily dealt with legal discrimination against women concerning their rights to: divorce, have custody of their children, inherit and decide who to marry (*ijbar*).<sup>5</sup> The study assessed the opinions of leading Islamic jurists and other influential leaders on the proposal to codify Islamic family law. After comparing these opinions to the problems facing women, the codification was deemed justifiable as a means of enhancing compliance with Islamic family law provisions and to remove arbitrariness from the laws. Much education will be needed before a final code is presented to the legislative assemblies in the pilot states.

#### **E. Uganda: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

##### **USAID - Funded Work**

During the spring 2004 semester, LAW-Uganda and the Clinic successfully completed a project on female genital mutilation ("FGM"). It included a one-week (March 8 – 12, 2004) fact-finding mission on the discriminatory practice. Working in conjunction with LAW-Uganda, the Clinic faculty and students drafted a human rights report and proposed statute to prohibit FGM.

FGM represents gender-based violence and is a harmful traditional practice that violates a women's right to non-discrimination. The practice is performed primarily on children unable to consent and generally without anesthesia or sterilized instruments by a circumciser - often an older woman with no formal medical training. FGM may happen in private or during a public celebration depending on the ethnic group. Sometimes girls are forcibly circumcised by members of the community if the family allows them to go uncircumcised. Approximately 11 different ethnic groups within Uganda practice FGM.

##### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

LAW-Uganda attorneys prepared for the fact finding mission on FGM and reviewed draft Clinic reports on the subject. The Anonymous Donor grant funded their time on this work.

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<sup>5</sup> *Ijbar* is a provision in some schools of Islamic law that gives a woman's father or guardian the right to sign the marriage contract with husband.

## **F. Employment Discrimination**

### **1. Ghana: Integrating Women into Constitutional Traditional Government**

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

On December 19, 2003, LAWA-Ghana submitted to the Attorney General's Department their memorandum to end women's exclusion from constitutional traditional government. This submission was drafted by a Clinic intern in the summer 2003. The Attorney General acknowledged its receipt on December 23, 2003 and assured LAWA-Ghana that its comments would be considered in drafting the Chieftaincy Act Bill.

### **2. Uganda: Prohibiting Employment Discrimination**

#### **Anonymous – Funded Work**

In November and December 2003, LAW-Uganda and the Clinic continued collaborating on a draft bill to prohibit employment discrimination against women. At the end of December 2003, Clinic students submitted the final draft of their proposed Bill, which seeks to revise and modernize the law relating to individual employment by introducing protection against such practises as sexual harassment, firing pregnant women, or paying women less than men. The Clinic's bill prohibits employment discrimination based on sex and other grounds, with a specific focus on enhancing the equality of women in the workplace.

## **G. Ghana: Additional Plans for Legislative Advocacy**

#### **Anonymous Donor - Funded Work**

On January 16, 2004, the members of LAWA-Ghana held a planning retreat in Aburi to discuss the plans for the upcoming year. They concluded they would work on the following activities:

- Continue working with the Coalition on Domestic Violence for passage of the Domestic Violence Bill;
- Submit a position paper to the Attorney General on the division of marital property at divorce;
- Follow up with the Attorney General on the issues relating to women in constitutional traditional roles to ensure the Chieftaincy Act Bill moves forward;
- Update the report prepared in conjunction with the Clinic's fact finding mission of March 2003 on Domestic Assistants for use as a lobbying tool; and
- Build a closer relationship with the media.

### **III. Enhance Judicial Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Legislation in a Gender-Equitable Way**

#### **A. Uganda: A Successful Challenge to Sex-Based Adultery Divorce Laws**

##### **USAID - Funded Work**

On March 10, 2004, LAW-Uganda won a precedent-setting Constitutional Court victory in the case of Uganda Association of Women Lawyers et al.<sup>6</sup> v. The Attorney General. This case challenged a discriminatory divorce law which allowed men to secure a divorce based on their spouse's adultery alone and to win title to her property, but denied the same rights to women. Prior to this decision, males were able to divorce their wives solely on the grounds of adultery, whereas women had to prove adultery plus an additional element.<sup>7</sup>

The Court found these provisions violated articles 21 (equal protection), 31 (equal rights in marriage) and 33 (equal dignity) of the Ugandan Constitution. This is the Constitutional Court's first decision on sex discrimination and it will have far-reaching impact as a result. The Court ordered that women would now have the same rights as men under the Divorce Act. The ability to divorce an adulterous husband is especially important in the era of rampant HIV/AIDS.

In addition to rectifying a discriminatory law, the decision also invalidated a rule that has been used for the past decade as a basis for dismissing public litigation cases.<sup>8</sup> This paves the way for bringing other equal protection cases before the Ugandan Constitutional Court.

As discussed in the Second Year's Consolidated Quarterly Reports,<sup>9</sup> LAW-Uganda started the strategic litigation coalition to challenge this law. The Clinic and Law-Uganda prepared the lawsuit during the fall 2001 semester. During that semester, the Clinic worked with Ugandan attorney Esther Kisaakye both while she was in Uganda and upon her arrival at the Clinic in mid-November 2001 as a Visiting Scholar pursuant to the grant. On her return to Uganda in January 2003, she spearheaded efforts to file this lawsuit.

#### **B. Uganda: Challenge Sex-Discriminatory Criminal Adultery Law**

##### **Anonymous Donor - Funded Work**

As a follow up to this project, the fall 2004 Clinic students, in collaboration with LAW-Uganda, began drafting test case litigation papers to challenge a facially discriminatory law that criminalizes a married woman's adultery with an unmarried man, but not a married man's adultery with an unmarried woman. The LAW-Uganda attorney time related to this project was funded by the Anonymous Donor.

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<sup>6</sup> Other plaintiffs included: Dora Byamukama (LAW-Uganda Director), Jaqueline Asiimwe Mwesige (LAW-Uganda member), Peter Ddungu Matovu, Joe Oloka Onyango and Phillip Karugaba.

<sup>7</sup> This includes: incest, bigamy, polygamy, rape, sodomy, bestiality, cruelty or desertion. (Section 4(2)(b) of Cap. 249, the Divorce Act).

<sup>8</sup> The Attorney-General argued that the petition was time barred by Article 273 of the Constitution. The argument was that all claims of discrimination against existing laws, including the Divorce Act, had to be filed within 30 days of the Constitution coming into force (October 8, 1995).

<sup>9</sup> Second Year's First, Second, Third and Fourth Quarterly Report (November 1, 2002-October 31, 2003), dated August 25, 2004, page 21.

### **C. Uganda: Challenge to Law Permitting Polygamy**

#### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

The fall 2004 Clinic students began working with LAW-Uganda on test case litigation to challenge the Ugandan law that permits polygamy. This law is facially discriminatory as it permits a man, in a customary or Islamic marriage, to have more than one wife. It also deprives women of their rights to dignity and equality in marriage, and subjects them to emotional and financial deprivation.

### **D. Uganda: Follow Up Strategic Litigation to Help Women Gain Equal Inheritance Rights**

#### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

As discussed in section II.C.2 of this report, one of the projects for the spring 2004 fact-finding trip explored gender discriminatory intestate succession laws. As a follow up to this project, LAW-Uganda and the fall 2004 Clinic students began developing a challenge to the discriminatory inheritance laws. Due to the interest of the Law Reform Commission (discussed in section II.C.2), initiation of a challenge against these laws at the Constitutional Court may bring enough pressure to bear on the Ugandan government to prompt revision to the law giving women equal inheritance rights, as recommended in our spring 2004 project.

### **E. Tanzania: Follow Up Strategic Litigation to Advance Women’s Inheritance Rights**

#### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

The fall 2004 Clinic students collaborated with WLAC attorneys to draft test case litigation papers to challenge the discriminatory inheritance laws of Tanzania. This litigation stems from the 2002 intestate succession fact-finding mission, human rights report, and proposed legislation developed by WLAC and the Clinic. This test case will build pressure on the executive branch to proceed with the legislation. If WLAC loses the case and the legislation is not passed, the partners will be able to bring the matter to an international forum (e.g. the UN Human Rights Committee).

Funds from the Anonymous Donor were used for WLAC attorney time to conduct legal and factual research on inheritance issues.

## **IV. Strengthen Civil Society Organizations to Advocate Women’s Legal Concerns**

Lawyers from the African NGOs were engaged in a number of programs and meetings outlined below. These events encourage other members of civil society to collaborate on women's rights issues and strengthen the collective capacity to effectively advocate for change. The African NGOs' participation in these events also shares their knowledge regarding these topics, and continues an open dialogue on the issues.

## **A. Ghana's Civil Society Work: Domestic Violence; Promoting Gender Equity**

As previously discussed in Section II.A.1, LAWA-Ghana continues to work closely with the Coalition for the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill. LAWA-Ghana is also exploring opportunities to work with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) for the passage of a Human Trafficking Bill.

### **USAID – Funded Work**

#### ***Domestic Violence***

As a part of International Women's Day celebrations on March 8, 2004, LAWA-Ghana joined WILDAF (Women in Law and Development in Africa), as organizer, and other women's rights organizations in a church service in Accra to mark the day. A statement was read by a LAWA-Ghana member in support of passage of the Domestic Violence Bill at this event.

On March 9, 2004, the Coalition organized a walkathon, in support of the Domestic Violence Bill, to put public pressure on the Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs, the ministry responsible for passage of the bill. LAWA-Ghana members were active participants in the walkathon. In all over 2,000 people from all parts of society took part in the walkathon, which was considered a great success given it was a public holiday.

LAWA-Ghana published an article in the Daily Graphic (a national Ghanaian paper), on behalf of the Coalition, in March 2004. The article outlined various reasons why section 42(g) of the Ghanaian Criminal Code, permitting marital rape, should be stricken from the statute books. The Domestic Violence Bill currently includes the repeal of section 42(g), but this issue has created significant controversy.

#### ***Promoting Gender Equality***

On June 2, 2004, LAWA-Ghana participated in a workshop sponsored by WILDAF on disseminating the outcomes and resolutions of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women relating to "The Role of Men and Boys as Partners in Promoting Gender Equalities."

### **UNICEF – Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana began collaborating with MAWHN (Multi-Disciplinary African Women's Health Network) on a condensed booklet of the training manual on Domestic Violence previously generated by these groups.

## **B. Nigeria's Civil Society Work: Women in Politics; Violence Against Women; Trafficking; Sex-Discriminatory Laws; Domestic Worker Abuse; Judicial Reform; Muslim Women's Rights; CEDAW Implementation; Ratification of African Protocol.**

WRAPA continued its work as secretariat of Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women ("LACVAW"), as described in section II. A. 2 of this report.

## **USAID and Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

Funding from USAID and the Anonymous Donor permitted WRAPA lawyers to be involved in numerous civil society works. WRAPA lawyers lent their expertise to many other organizations. As a highly respected women's rights NGO in Nigeria, WRAPA's views on the various subjects help to shape civil society's response to women's rights issues. For each topic below the USAID funded work is listed first and the Anonymous Donor work follows:

### ***Women in Politics – USAID***

- On November 27 and 28, 2003, Mariam Imhanobe attended a program on the Independent National Electoral Commission and Civil Society Forum/Seminar on Agenda for Electoral Reform relating to women candidates in elections;
- On February 16, 2004, Ms. Saudatu Mahdi attended a meeting on Women's Participation in Politics convened by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa ("OSIWA") and participated in another meeting organized by them on February 18, 2004 with the House of Representatives;
- From March 29-31, 2004 Ms. Mahdi participated in a workshop, entitled Political Empowerment for Women is Political Empowerment for All, organized by the International Republican Institute (IRI), and gave a briefing entitled "Identifying an Effective Strategy of Increasing Women's Participation";
- Ms. Mahdi participated in a meeting on "The Way Forward: Affirmative Action for Women in Politics - From Project to Policy Change" on April 6, 2004, organized by Women in Nigeria (WIN) and OSIWA;

### ***Women in Politics – Anonymous Donor***

- On May 26-27, 2004, Ms. Saudatu Mahdi participated at a Communication Workshop organized by the International Republican Institute (IRI) on developing political parties and presented a paper entitled "Organizational Linkages: Civil Society Organization and Political Party Partnerships";
- Ms. Mahdi participated in and delivered a paper at the Civil Society Organizations and Political Party Advocacy workshop organized by IRI on capacity building on August 25-26, 2004;
- On October 5, 2004, Ms Mahdi participated in the British Council's program on "Participation at the Women's Parliamentary Forum";
- Ms. Mahdi participated in the Women's Forum II workshop sponsored by the IRI from October 19-20, 2004 on strategies for building coalitions to enhance sustainable avenues for women's political participation;

### ***Muslim Women's Rights - USAID***

- Ms. Saudatu Mahdi gave a presentation on Women's Islamic Law and Human Rights at a seminar given by the Commonwealth People's Forum on December 1, 2003;
- Ms. Mahdi also delivered a paper on January 15, 2004, at a conference on Comparative Perspectives on Shari'a law in Nigeria, hosted by the University of Jos;

### ***Muslim Women's Rights – Anonymous Donor***

- Ms. Mahdi participated in a harmonization forum give on June 3, 2004, on Muslim women's rights under Shari'a law;
- On July 8-9, 2004, Ms. Mahdi participated in an international conference on "Implementation of Shari'a in a Democracy: The Nigerian Experience" organized by the Centre of Islamic Legal Studies at Ahmadu Bello University, and made a presentation entitled "Shari'a and Women's Rights: Our Expectations";

### ***Gender Discriminatory Laws - USAID***

- On January 20, 2004, Ms. Imhanobe attended a meeting on Reform of Discriminatory Laws Against Women held by the National Centre for Women's Development (NCWD) and the World Bank;
- Ms. Imhanobe participated in a meeting by NCWD, the Law Reform Commission, and FIDA on laws that discriminate against women on February 6, 2004;
- On April 1, 2004, Ms. Imhanobe participated in a research session held by NCWD with the World Bank and UNICEF on the status of women and discrimination in laws and conventions regarding women;

### ***Violence Against Women - USAID***

- Ms. Mahdi met with the Chairperson for the House Committee on Women's Affairs on the Violence Against Women Bill on February 20, 2004;
- From March 22-31, 2004, with sponsorship by Global Rights, Mariam Imhanobe received training at the United Nations on issues related to domestic workers and violence against women;

### ***Other Women's Issues - USAID***

- On January 9, 2004, Ms. Mahdi briefed delegates to the CEDAW Committee on implementation of the Convention at the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development;
- From April 29-30, 2004, Ms. Mahdi was a resource person for a workshop organized by the Federal Ministry of Education and UNICEF on "Trafficking and Mentoring Girls In and Out of School to Ensure Increased Participation in Education" and delivered a paper entitled "Overview of Tracking and Mentoring Girls In and Out of School"; and
- On July 20, 2004, Ms. Imhanobe represented WRAPA at the National Summit Legal and Judicial Reform Component of the Economic Management Capacity Building Project, which dealt with the role of the judiciary and capacity building for women's rights groups.

### ***Other Women's Issues – Anonymous Donor***

- UNIFEM and the Ford Foundation held a consultation on September 24, 2004 in which Ms. Mahdi participated on the ratification of the African Protocol;

- Ms Mahdi also attended a workshop on the Beijing +10 entitled “Setting the Right Agenda for Nigeria Women” sponsored by the British Council, UNIFEM and the Women’s Consortium of Nigeria in which she made a presentation on the comparative analysis of the past 10 years and recommendations for amendments to the government’s report on this issue; and
- Ms. Mahdi was a guest speaker at an internal seminar series organized by the Education Resource Center on the topic of “Women’s Rights and Protection”.

### **Other Funded Work**

In collaboration with the OSIWA and Global Rights, WRAPA was one of a number of civil society organizations involved in the printing and distribution of a policy brief on the *Marginalisation of Women in the 2003 Political Party Primaries in Nigeria*.

WRAPA Secretary General, Saudatu Mahdi, was an NGO representative at the United Nations in New York, when Nigeria reported to the CEDAW Committee on its fourth and fifth periodic reports in January 2004. She was also named as one of Ms. Magazine's Women of the Year for 2004.

### **C. Tanzania’s Civil Society Work: Equal Inheritance Rights**

WLAC lawyers continued to play a lead role in the Inheritance Rights Task Force (a coalition of NGOs). WLAC's leadership in this coalition both furthers collaboration within civil society and strengthens its advocacy efforts toward passage of the draft inheritance bill.

WLAC also continued to build alliances and networks with other NGOs and CBOs working on reforming women's rights. They worked closely with the State University of New York's Technical Assistance for the Strengthening of Tanzania's Union National Assembly (Parliament) program in an effort to bring together numerous civil society organizations to work on educating parliamentarians on women's rights issues.

WLAC also continued their association with many local women's rights organizations, including: Women's Dignity Project; Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA); The Ministry of Education and Culture; Women Advancement Trust (WAT); Tanzania Women Lawyer Association (TAWLA); Tanganyika Law Society; Women's Information Centre; Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP); and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF).

### **D. Uganda’s Civil Society Work: DRB; Customary Practices; Women in Political Parties; Equal Opportunity for Women; Women's Right Under International Treaties**

LAW-Uganda members participated in several workshops and conferences to strengthen civil society's commitment to women's right advocacy, including:

## **USAID – Funded Work**

On July 15, 2004, LAW-Uganda Director and Member of Parliament Dora Byamukama attended the launch of the Global Human Development Report – 2004, where she discussed the effects of FGM, bride-price, polygamy and widow inheritance on women.

## **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

Given her position as a Member of Parliament, Dora Byamukama is often asked by civil society organizations to attend conferences and meetings, which provide educational, networking and collaboration opportunities for participants. During this reporting period, Ms. Byamukama engaged in the following civil society promoting activities:

- Attended a conference in Nairobi on September 16, 2004, where she presented a paper on the legal aspects and impact of FGM on women's rights;
- On September 30, 2004, met with the Civil Society Coalition Group ("CSCG") and discussed furthering the rights of women under the UN system;
- Met with the DRB coalition on October 1, 2004, to discuss how to move the bill forward;
- On October 11, 2004, met with members of Uganda Women's Network ("UWONET") and Isis –WICCD (Women's Cross Cultural Exchange) to discuss opening a dialogue to demand more representation by women in political parties;
- Met with members of the CSCG on October 20, 2004, to discuss government's failure to introduce an Equal Opportunities Commission and the effect on women; and
- On October 25, 2004, presented a paper entitled "The Impact of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of Women in Africa" to a legislative workshop hosted by CSCG.

## **Other Funders**

UWONET invited members of LAW-Uganda to present a DRB media press kit on November 12, 2003. The Minister of Information assisted in the launch of the media kit. Members of the press were present and asked questions on the issues of age of marriage, polygamy, bride-price and property rights.

## **V. Increased Knowledge of and Receptivity to Women's Legal Rights**

The African NGOs combined held twenty-two (22) public education sessions addressing the following: domestic violence (8); inheritance (5); political empowerment (1); domestic relations (6); maternal mortality (1); and trafficking (1).

## **A. Ghana's Education Activities: Domestic Violence and Trafficking**

### ***Domestic Violence***

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana held two public education sessions on domestic violence: (i) on December 12, 2003, for members of the media in conjunction with the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" campaign. Thirteen member of the press were present and briefed on advocacy measures to date and plans for future activities to garner support for passage of the Domestic Violence Bill; (ii) on October 12, 2004, in the Ho District for thirty-four (34) people, including 19 religious leaders. The session dealt with issues relating to the Domestic Violence Bill. This session highlighted the key role that religious leader play in family relations matters, particularly relating to domestic violence issues.

In addition to the public education sessions held by LAWA-Ghana, with funds from USAID, the organization was able to conduct the following educational efforts:

- Sheila Minkah-Premo lobbied members of the Gender and Children's Committee of parliament regarding the DV Bill on June 24, 2004; and
- Ms. Minkah-Premo also met with the Ghanaian President's Chief of Staff regarding the DV Bill on October 26, 2004.

#### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

During the reporting period, LAWA-Ghana conducted three public education sessions regarding domestic violence: (i) on March 16, 2004, for 263 participants (136 women and 127 men) in the Asaafa District; (ii) on April 19 and 20, 2004, for 61 participants (56 women and 5 men), mainly traditional leaders, in the Kpando District; and (iii) on June 15, 2004, for 18 District Assembly people in the Greater Accra Region.

Prior to these sessions, LAWA-Ghana worked with female parliamentarians in the constituencies to ensure that they were fully aware of the reasons the Domestic Violence Bill should be passed and to sensitize them to the issues regarding the bill. All public education sessions included members of traditional governments, members of NGOs, government officials and medical personnel, who were educated about the specifics of the domestic violence legislation and the reasons the bill is needed. These sessions received positive media attention.

In addition to the above, funds from the Anonymous Donor allowed the following education efforts to take place:

- Ms. Sheila Minkah-Premo represented LAWA-Ghana at a press conference at the International Press Centre regarding the Domestic Violence Bill, on January 13, 2004;
- Barbara Ayesu lobbied members of the Gender and Children's Committee of parliament regarding the DV Bill on July 27, 2004; and

- Barbara Ayasu met with the Inspector General of Police on October 22, 2004, to discuss issues related to domestic violence and how the police handle them.

### ***Trafficking***

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

A public education session was held on September 1, 2004, in Accra, on the issue of domestic trafficking related to domestic assistants and househelp. Eighty-four (84) people attended the session and the event received significant media attention, including radio and television interviews.

#### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana member Bernice Sam gave radio interviews on August 12, 2004, and September 2, 2004, and a television interview on September 10, 2004, on the issue of internal trafficking of domestic assistants.

### **B. Nigeria’s Education Activities: Violence Against Women; Maternal Mortality; Inheritance; and Women in Political Parties**

#### ***Domestic Violence***

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

On December 16, 2003, Nigeria WRAPA held a public education session on violence against women for over 50 participants in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. This session focused on rape as a form of violence against women and raised awareness about the growing prevalence of rape in Nigeria. The Hon. Justice Binta Murtala Nyako outlined the laws, in both the Penal<sup>10</sup> and Criminal Codes, related to the offence of rape and discussed problems with issues of evidence in rape cases.

#### ***Maternal Mortality***

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

A public education session on the topic of maternal mortality was held in Delta State on August 2, 2004, for 100 participants. This session was endorsed by the local Council of Traditional Chiefs. The Delta State was chosen for this session as it has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in Nigeria. The session focused on how to reduce maternal mortality with safe practices and provision of basic health services.

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<sup>10</sup> Section 282 of the Penal Code, which defines “Rape,” is only operational in the 19 Northern States of Nigeria.

## ***Inheritance***

### **USAID – Funded Work**

A public education session on the need for legislation to prohibit discriminatory practices relating to inheritance rights (i.e. customary laws disinheriting women), the need to write wills, and HIV/AIDS was held in Calabar in the Cross River State. Cross River State has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS (12.5%) in Nigeria. This session was held on September 28, 2004, with 80 people in attendance.

### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

With funds from the Anonymous Donor, WRAPA lawyers visited various media outfits on August 16, 2004, to raise awareness about the plight of widows, especially those whose husbands had died of HIV/AIDS, and discuss the legal ramifications of the customary law on women's inheritance rights.

On August 17, 2004, 77 people attended a public education session on the need for legislation to prohibit discriminatory cultural practices that disinherit women. A comparison of a woman's rights under the three types of recognized marriages in Nigeria was given. The session outlined the link between HIV/AIDS and these cultural practices. This session took place in the Benue State which has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in Nigeria and continues with the practice of widow inheritance.

## ***Women in Political Parties***

### **USAID – Funded Work**

On October 28, 2004, WRAPA held a public education session for 36 participants, including three party heads and four female party members, on the issue of affirmative action in political parties and constituencies. This session was held in Kaduna State, with numerous politicians and political parties represented. The session included presentations by: (i) Dr. Sam Egwu of the University of Jos on "Affirmative Action in Political Parties and Qualitative Women's Political Participation", and (ii) Dr. Joyce Mangwat on "Affirmative Action for Women's Political Participation the Uganda Model: Lessons for Nigeria".

## **C. Tanzania's Education Activities: Domestic Violence; Inheritance; FGM; Discriminatory Customs**

To further raise awareness about women's issues, WLAC takes advantage of the reach of the media. WLAC members have written articles for newspapers, and the organization has used television and radio programs to highlight certain issues in political campaigns. The media has been involved with all workshop and sessions organized by WLAC.

## ***Domestic Violence***

### **USAID – Funded Work**

WLAC held two public education sessions on violence against women: (i) in Dodoma on December 2-3, 2003, to mark the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign” focusing on violence against widows and female genital mutilation (FGM), and including victim testimony and strategic planning; and (ii) on October 5-6, 2004, in Dar es Salaam. The program reviewed the draft domestic violence bill section by section and solicited the views and recommendations of the participants.

### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

Attorney time funds from the Anonymous Donor were also used for the following educational activities:

1. Jane Magigita:
  - was interviewed on television on issues of domestic violence (December 18, 2003);
  - held a press conference on domestic violence (June 2, 2004), and a television interview on the same issue (June 15, 2004); and
  - was interviewed by the print media on draft findings on the domestic violence and inheritance bills (July 20, 2004), and appeared on television on the issues of domestic violence, inheritance and customary law (July 28, 2004).
2. Scholastica Jullu:
  - gave newspaper interviews (February 14, 20 and 24, 2004), and a television interview (February 9, 2004), on domestic violence;
  - held a press conference on domestic violence (June 11, 2004), and television program on the same issue (June 19, 2004); additionally a newspaper interview was given (June 28, 2004), on the issues of domestic violence, inheritance, HIV/AIDS and discriminatory customs; and
  - gave newspaper interviews on domestic violence (August 6 and 27, 2004).
3. Ms. Safina Hassan gave a press conference on June 29, 2004, on the issues of early marriage, dowry and domestic violence.

## ***Inheritance***

### **USAID – Funded Work**

Two public education sessions were held on issues relating to inheritance:

- (i) on May 20 and 21, 2004, for 20 widows from Dar es Salaam to empower them to fight for their rights and mobilize them as part of the campaign for inheritance law reform. These widows were primarily victims of the discriminatory customs and traditions that prevent women from inheriting. This session resulted in a 30 minute television special by Independent Television on the plight of widows, entitled '*Jarida la Wanawake*' (Women Bulletin); and

- (ii) on May 27-28, 2004, in Dar es Salaam for 20 participants. This session educated participants on the key terms in inheritance as well as the three laws governing inheritance in Tanzania. The session also touched on issues related to domestic violence.

### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

On April 14, 2004, WLAC held a media workshop to raise awareness on inheritance and other women's issues. Thirty-one participants from print and electronic media attended. The workshop helped build links with the media and develop a media strategy to help the campaign for new inheritance laws.

WLAC has developed an advocacy booklet on inheritance, in Swahili, which was published in May 2004, titled '*Haja ya kuleta Mabadiliko katika Sheria za Mirathi*' (The Need for Having New Inheritance Law). This booklet analyzes the issues associated with discriminatory inheritance laws in relation to human rights, economics, HIV/AIDS, poverty, and peace-building. Fifteen hundred booklets were printed and are being disseminated to appropriate parties. A booklet on domestic violence was also developed with funds from the Anonymous Donor grant, titled '*Ukatili Nyumbani*' (Domestic Violence).

Funds from the Anonymous Donor were also used to fund attorney time for the following educational activities:

1. Jane Magigita:
  - in conjunction with International Women's Day activities, held a press conference on the inheritance bill (March 8, 2004);
  - gave interviews on inheritance law to the media (April 7, 22, and 26, 2004); and
  - met with the Deputy Minister for Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the status of the proposed inheritance bill and then conducted newspaper interviews on the same (August 21, 2004).
  
2. Scholastica Jullu:
  - held a press conference on inheritance issues (January 1, 2004), and television interviews on the same topic (January 30, 2004);
  - gave newspaper interviews (February 14, 20, and 24, 2004), and a television interview (February 9, 2004) on the issue of inheritance laws; and
  - gave radio (April 16, 2004) and television (April 19, 2004) interviews on the issue of inheritance, and held press conferences on the same (April 12, 13, 27, and 28, 2004).

### **D. Uganda's Education Activities: Passage of the DRB; Domestic Violence; and Employment Discrimination**

#### ***Domestic Relations Bill***

### **USAID – Funded Work**

LAW-Uganda held a public education session on December 11, 2003, in Wakiso District, an event that was attended by 96 people. The session mainly targeted District

Counselors and discussed the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) and the fact that the majority of Muslim women want monogamy. The session was widely reported by the media.

Four additional public education sessions relating to the DRB were held:

- (i) in Nakawa Division of Kampala on September 24, 2004, for 87 participants. Topics included an overview of the bill and a critique by Hon. Freddie Ruhindi entitled "A Legislator's and Practitioner's Perspective."
- (ii) in Kabale District on October 19, 2004, for 22 participants and 6 members of the media. The theme of this session was customary practices and property rights.
- (iii) in Soroti District on October 28, 2004, for 25 participants and 6 members of the press. The focus of this session was the positive impact of the DRB on rectifying problems in the family unit.
- (iv) in Apac District on October 29, 2004, for 25 participants and six members of the media regarding the justification for implementing the DRB.

In addition, Hon. Dora Byamukama gave a presentation to the Uganda Law Society on the Domestic Relations Bill on May 24, 2004, and held a press conference the following day on her presentation.

#### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

A public education session was held for 25 participants and seven media representatives on October 31, 2004, in Moroto District on whether the DRB takes into consideration customary practices and norms. The session was mainly for local leaders to give them a better understanding of the bill.

#### **Other – Funded Work**

In addition, LAW-Uganda published a booklet titled "A Summary and Commentary of the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB)" in December 2003. The booklet was distributed to all members of Parliament, civic society organizations, the National Association of Women Organizations, and others, so that these groups could disseminate information on this issue. This publication was important because it explained controversial issues, and provided a reference that can now be used by the media and in public gatherings.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

#### **USAID – Funded Work**

Funds from USAID were also used by LAW-Uganda for the following educational activities:

- Hon. Dora Byamukama presented a radio program on domestic violence on December 9, 2003;
- On December 10, 2003, Hon. Byamukama helped launch the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence; and

- On June 29, 2004, Hon. Dora Byamukama presented a radio talk show on The Sexual Offenses Bill, which deals with defilement, indecent assault and the status of people with HIV/AIDS.

### *Employment Discrimination*

#### **Anonymous Donor – Funded Work**

Funds from the Anonymous Donor grant were used by the LAW-Uganda for a radio interview of Hon. Dora Byamukama, on September 28, 2004, opposed a proposed amendment to the Uganda People's Defense Forces Bill prohibiting the firing of pregnant women police officers, but making it an offense, under the same Bill, for them to become pregnant. The Bill would have made officers who become pregnant - therefore only female officers - liable for "punishment," but it does not define what the term means.

## **VI. The Clinic's Accomplishments: Litigation, Legislation, and Human Rights Reports that Advance Women's Human Rights; Planning and Administration; the Leland Initiative**

### **A. Advancing Women's Human Rights**

#### **1. Clinic Work**

For the work described below, USAID funded the spring fact-finding trip to Uganda, the Clinic's summer intern work with LAW-Uganda and WLAC-Tanzania, and the position of Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst. Both USAID and the Anonymous Donor funded NGO attorney time related to the projects outlined below. The Georgetown University Law Center funded all other Clinic expenses, including the Director's, Attorney-Fellow's, and part-time office administrator's salaries.

The Clinic completed four major women's human rights projects and started four new ones. For full details, see the descriptions of its joint work with the partner NGOs on litigation, legislation, and human rights reports in Parts II and III. The projects covered the following subjects:

- Muslim Equal Marital Rights in Uganda (II.D.1) (legislation completed Fall 2003)
- Employment Discrimination in Uganda (II.F.2) (legislation completed Fall 2003)
- Female Genital Mutilation in Uganda (II.E) (legislation and human rights report completed Spring 2004)
- Gender Discriminatory Inheritance Laws in Uganda (III.C) (legislation and human rights report completed Spring 2004)
- Gender Discriminatory Inheritance Laws in Uganda (III.C) (test-case litigation began Fall 2004)
- Female-only adultery crime in Uganda (III.A) (test-case litigation began Fall 2004)
- Polygamy in Uganda (III.B) (test-case litigation began Fall 2004)
- Gender Discriminatory Inheritance Laws in Tanzania (III.D) (test-case litigation began Fall 2004)

## **2. Summer Interns**

The Clinic's four summer interns contributed significantly to the work of LAW-Uganda and WLAC Tanzania. They worked on projects related to trafficking, intestate succession and discrimination against female police officers in Uganda; and domestic violence and collaborating with other CBOs in Tanzania. The interns assisted with legal research and writing; organization of public events; and writing published newspaper articles on these topics. They also coordinated LAW-Uganda's work with the Clinic for the fall 2004 semester litigation projects on intestate succession, criminal adultery and polygamy in Uganda.

### **B. Planning and Administration.**

#### **USAID and GULC-Funded Work**

Throughout the year, the Clinic Director (GULC) continued managing the different program components. The Director oversaw the fact-finding trip to Uganda (March 2004) and the summer internships to Uganda and Tanzania.

The Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst (USAID) has worked with the partner NGOs on capacity building issues throughout the year, including financial, technical, managerial and institutional capabilities. Mentoring continues via numerous phone conferences and emails providing guidance and feedback on the development of projects, submission of invoices and timesheets, preparing project and organizational budgets, and the development of answers or resource referrals to questions related to human rights law, and practice.

### **C. Leland Initiative**

While implementation of the Leland Initiative continued to be slow, progress has been made. Our first NGO partner, LAWA-Ghana went on-line with high speed internet as of July 28, 2004. LAW-Uganda followed in August and WLAC-Tanzania in September. Due to additional hardware needed, and difficulties communicating with the service provider in Nigeria, WRAPA did not have high speed access by the end of the reporting period.

## **VII. How Work Helps Support USAID's Regional and Country Mission Strategic Objectives**

In this Part, we discuss the partners' contributions to supporting the regional objectives (human rights, democracy and broad-based sustainable economic development) and each country's USAID mission objectives (see Part VII. B below).

### **A. Regional Objectives**

#### **1. Human Rights and Democracy**

In general, every NGO's work supports the regional human rights and democracy objectives. All legislation and litigation is built upon national, comparative, regional and

international women's human rights arguments. In addition, all the work activities target national legislatures, judiciaries and executive branch officials, and they work in coalitions with other civil society organizations and/or these governmental actors. Thus, all contribute to increasing the capacity of the different players in a vibrant democracy.

## 2. Economic Development

Concerning economic development, many of the projects help women achieve greater access to economic resources (e.g. by winning women's rights to equal inheritance, equal employment, and equal marital property division at divorce). These resources in turn allow women to make greater economic contributions to society and to build their own personal economic wealth. There can be no broad-based and sustainable economic development without the full participation of women in national economies.

## B. Country Objectives

We show below how each NGO's projects, in addition to the above, advance the USAID Country Goals and Objectives.

### 1. Ghana

**Country Objectives: Democracy; Human Rights; Civil Society; Family Health; Primary Education; Private Sector Growth to Alleviate Poverty; Objective that Public Policy Better Reflect Civic Input – And (Specifically for this Project) Send Mission Copies of Draft Bills; Work with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Children, Ministry for Women's Affairs, and Women's Caucus; and Insure Participation of Other NGOs, including FIDA and Ark Foundation**

#### a. *Democracy and Human Right*

See the regional discussion above on human rights and democracy (Section VII.A.1).

#### b. *Civil Society; Better Civic Input; Work with Parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry for Women's Affairs and Women's Caucus; and Insure Participation of Other NGOs*

LAWA-Ghana's domestic violence advocacy continues to support these strategic objectives in various ways. LAWA-Ghana's five public educational sessions on domestic violence – as well as their two public education and legislative consultation sessions concerning the abuse of domestic assistants - strengthen civil society and civic participation in public policy. In particular, LAWA-Ghana continues to work with other CSOs and is an integral part of the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Legislation, a group of over 100 CSOs and individuals, including: the Ark Foundation, the African Women Lawyer's Association, the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), and the National Council on Women and Development. The Ministry for Women's and Children's Affairs is responsible for passage of this bill. LAWA-Ghana works closely with this Ministry to ensure the issue remains in the fore. During this reporting period, LAWA-Ghana held a domestic violence parliamentary roundtable for the

Standing Committee on Gender and Children and met with the Minister of Women and Children's Affairs regarding the need for domestic violence legislation. LAWA-Ghana also held a parliamentary round table on the Human Trafficking Bill that included: four members from the Women's Caucus, two members from the Standing Committee on Gender and Children, five members from the Standing Committee on Subsidiary Legislation, and one member from the Select Committee on Lands and Forestry Committee.

c. *Family Health*

In addition to strengthening civil society, LAWA-Ghana's educational programs on domestic violence help strengthen family health by seeking to reduce domestic violence and educating the public on how to respond to domestic violence.

d. *Primary Education*

Likewise, LAWA-Ghana's public education session and legislative consultation on the Human Trafficking Bill and its public education session and legislative consultation on domestic assistants and house-help regulations improve human rights and keep children, particularly girls, with their families. This provides girls with a greater possibility of staying in school and completing their primary education.

e. *Private Sector Growth to Alleviate Poverty*

LAWA-Ghana's position paper for the Attorney General on integrating the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs established by the Constitution also impacts women's economic growth, alleviation of poverty and democracy rights. The ability to take part in decisions made by the Houses' traditional leadership is important for women to improve their lives and be considered equal to men. The Houses decide who is Chief of contested areas – and thus who controls the use of these lands. Adding women to the Houses would contribute to women gaining access to these important economic assets. Additionally, see the regional discussion above on economic development (Section VII.A.2).

## 2. Nigeria

**Country Objectives: Sustain Transition to Democratic Civilian Government; Education Reform; Maternal and Child Health; Decrease HIV Transmission; Enhance Judicial Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Legislation in a Gender Equitable Way (Judicial Reform Program); Increase Women's Access to Justice (Civil Society Program) – And (Specifically for this Project) Include Nigerian Judges in Training Efforts Concerning Human Rights and Women's Rights; Work with USAID Partners to Help Build a More Responsive Judiciary to Women's Rights**

a. *Sustain Transition to Democratic Civilian Government*

Continuing its involvement in furthering a stable democratic government in Nigeria through expanding women's access to political leadership, WRAPA held a public education session and participated in eight forums and workshops on the topic, including one on the role of the judiciary and capacity building for women's right groups. WRAPA also helped produce a policy brief entitled *Marginalisation of Women in the 2003 Political Primaries in Nigeria*.

See the regional discussion above on human rights and democracy for additional details (Section VII.A.1).

*b. Education Reform*

Mrs. Mahdi, WRAPA's Secretary-General delivered a paper, "Overview of Trafficking and Mentoring of Girls In and Out of School" at a meeting sponsored by UNICEF and the Education Ministry on "Trafficking and Mentoring Girls In and Out of School to Ensure Increased Participation in Education."

*c. Maternal and Child Health; Decrease HIV Transmission*

WRAPA held an education session specifically focused on the reduction of maternal mortality in Delta State. WRAPA's legislative consultation and two public education sessions concerning the bill on violence against women and its two education sessions on the need for legislation against discriminatory inheritance laws and practices also help advance maternal and child health. Domestic violence and customary widowhood practices, in particular, have adverse health consequences, including the physical injuries inflicted by batterers and the increased spread of HIV through marital rape and widowhood inheritance. Therefore the strengthening of families through WRAPA's efforts to ensure that Nigerian law protects women from violence will likely improve maternal and child health and decrease HIV transmission. Indeed, WRAPA specifically linked HIV/AIDS rates to discriminatory inheritance practices, such as "widow inheritance", in three education sessions.

*d. Enhance Judicial Sector Capacity; Increase Women's Access to Justice; Work with USAID Partners to Help Build a More Responsive Judiciary to Women's Rights*

When the new legislation on domestic violence and discriminatory inheritance laws and practices is enacted, it will increase women's access to justice and judicial capacity to respond favorably to women's rights. WRAPA's work on codification of Muslim family laws, to give married women more equal rights, will also promote uniform decisions within the judiciary once enacted. Currently, there is no statute or code to govern judges' decisions in the 12 states using Islamic family law. The codification will enhance the judiciary's ability to interpret and enforce legislation in a gender-equitable way because the proposed codes follow both international equality norms and progressive interpretations of Shari'a used in other Muslim countries.

WRAPA continued its active participation in the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW), with another USAID partner, Global Rights (formerly, the International Human Rights Law Group). Furthermore, WRAPA leaders worked with numerous civil society organizations in conferences and forums on key issues, such as political empowerment, equal rights in Muslim marriage law, violence against women, and trafficking and girls' education. The other organizations included: the Open Society Initiative of West Africa, Women in Nigeria, the International Republican Institute, the National Centre for Women's Development, the Law Reform Commission, FIDA, UNICEF, the World Bank, Global Rights, UNIFEM and the British Council.

### 3. Tanzania

**Country Objectives: More Effective Civil Society and Government; Stronger Democratic Institutions; Rule of Law; Human Rights; Maternal Health; Decrease HIV Transmission; Create Employment and Generate Economic Growth; Key Intermediate Results That Civil Society Organizations Effectively Present Women's Rights Issues to Government – And (Specifically for this Project) Send Copies of Quarterly Reports to Mission; Seek Mission Advice on New Opportunities, Directions, and Possible Future Mission Financial Support**

*a. More Effective Civil Society and Government; and Results that Civil Society Organizations Effectively Present Women's Rights Issues to Government*

By working with civil society, NGOs, and governmental officials from both Parliament and the Executive Branch, WLAC is contributing to a more effective civil society and government. In the two legislative consultations on domestic violence and discriminatory inheritance laws and practices WLAC brought together Ministry officials and CSOs. Its two parliamentary round tables on domestic violence and discriminatory inheritance laws helped civil society to affect Parliament as well.

*b. Stronger Democratic Institutions; Rule of Law; and Human Rights*

See the regional discussion above on democracy and human rights (Section VII.A.1).

*c. Maternal Health; and Decrease HIV Transmission*

WLAC's many efforts in support of legislation against domestic violence, once enacted, will help improve maternal health and reduce HIV/AIDS transmission by preventing attacks on women that inflict injuries, permanent disabilities, HIV/AIDS infections (through marital rape), and even death. In pursuit of this goal, WLAC held two public education sessions, one legislative consultation and one parliamentary roundtable. The Clinic summer interns contributed by helping to design a campaign against domestic violence and by working with other CSOs and the Parliament. Finally, WLAC produced a booklet on the subject for the lay public.

*d. Create Civic Employment and Generate Key Economic Growth*

WLAC's comprehensive, multi-pronged work to reform Tanzania's discriminatory inheritance laws will give women more economic resources, thus allowing them both to pay for more adequate medical care for themselves and to generate economic growth through their use of these increased assets. In support of this result, WLAC held two public education sessions, one legislative consultation, and one parliamentary round table. In addition, it educated the media and published a Swahili language booklet. Moreover, WLAC's strategic litigation on inheritance clearly advances the same goal.

Additionally, see the regional discussion above on economic development (Section VII.A.2).

A copy of this report will be sent to this and all other relevant USAID missions.

#### 4. Uganda

**Country Objectives: Expand Civic Pluralism; Increased Use of Constitutional Checks and Balances; Maternal Health (Increase Service Utilization; Change Behaviors); Increased Percentage of Children Receive Quality Basic Education; Increase Rural Household Income – And (Specifically for this Project) Enhance Both Civil Society’s and Parliament’s Understanding of Women’s Human Rights and also Their Capacity to Influence National Policy and Budget Policies in Coordination with Uganda USAID; Create New Clinical Education Component for Makerere University**

LAW-Uganda promotes many of these objectives through its work on the draft Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) that covers several discriminatory laws and practices. The DRB provides minor protection concerning polygamy, prohibits marital rape, and repeals the married men’s exemption from sex-based adultery provisions in the criminal code. It also provides women with enhanced property rights at divorce.

- a. *Expand Civic Pluralism; Increased Use of Constitutional Checks and Balances; and Enhance Civil Society and Parliament's Understanding of Women's Human Rights*

The successful strategic litigation on the discriminatory divorce law helped establish a constitutional check on Parliament and paved the way for future rights-based challenges. This sends a signal to Parliament that if they ignore women's rights issues within the law, civil society will seek redress from the courts. With the strategic litigation cases on inheritance rights, criminal adultery and polygamy laws, LAW-Uganda hopes to bring enough pressure to bear on the government to end additional forms of discrimination against women.

LAW-Uganda organized six public education sessions and four parliamentary round tables on the draft DRB. It also published a "Commentary on the DRB." By raising public awareness and including various segments of society in its educational outreach, LAW-Uganda has expanded civic pluralism, enhanced understanding of women’s human rights within civil society, and increased its capacity to influence national policy on these important issues. Moreover, in mobilizing communities to pressure their elected representatives, these events also strengthen the hand of Parliament as compared to the Executive Branch. Finally, the direct work with Members of Parliament certainly increases their understanding of women's human rights.

- b. *Maternal Health*

The Constitutional Court victory giving married women the right to divorce adulterous husbands will help these women avoid being infected with HIV by their husbands. Enacting and enforcing the legal reforms contained in the draft DRB will also help decrease the transmission of HIV/AIDS if it is part of an educational effort to discourage men’s practice of having sexual relationships with many different partners, as permitted and encouraged by current polygamy and criminal adultery laws. That in turn will help protect maternal health. Similarly, the strategic litigation challenging the discriminatory criminal adultery and polygamy laws will also have the same ultimate effects.

Female genital mutilation has been explicitly tied to serious health problems, including during childbirth, and to increased maternal mortality rates. LAW-Uganda's fact-finding human rights report, and proposed bill to ban this practice will aid in protecting maternal health and saving the lives of women throughout the country. Moreover, by working to educate people on the harms of this practice, LAW-Uganda can begin to change the societal behavior of those groups that continue to practice FGM.

*c. Increase Percentage of Children Receiving Quality Basic Education*

The economic empowerment of women, and thereby the improvement of family life for all members, is furthered by LAW-Uganda's work to end employment discrimination against women through the proposed legislation. This will empower women economically thereby helping them better support their families by providing children with the basic nutrition and school supplies necessary to pursue their educations. LAW-Uganda's advocacy surrounding the draft Domestic Relations Bill also increases children's access to education because it enhances women's access to economic assets at divorce.

*d. Increase Rural Household Income*

LAW-Uganda seeks increased household incomes for rural women by working on legislation and litigation against discriminatory inheritance laws that deny widows economic assets when their husband dies. Litigation to end polygamy, which subjects women and children to economic deprivation because a man in rural Uganda is not likely to have enough resources to support many wives and all their children, will also enhance household income. These projects are particularly important in the rural communities where a plethora of discriminatory customary laws continue to be enforced.